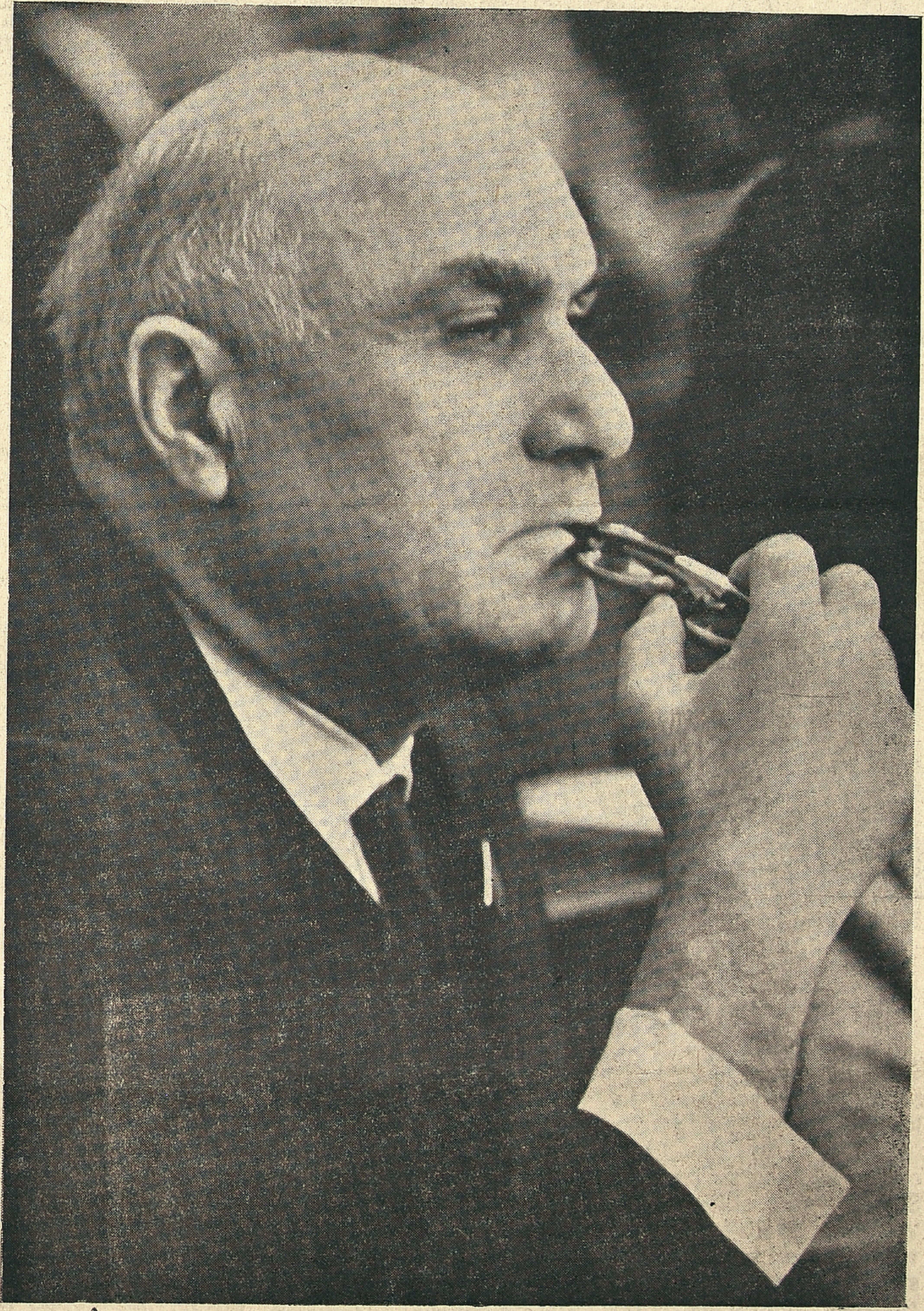
FREE INDIA

34th Year Of Publication April 8, 1973 ★ 20 Paise

A. A. Korotskaya



Irakli Abashidze

Sh. Mshvalidze

SOUTH INDIA'S FINEST PICTORIAL WEEKLY

Harvester Combines moving in the Wheat-fields of North Kazakhstan.

Cultivation Of Virgin Lands

Twenty-two million hectares of fertile lands in Kazakhstan stretching from the Urals to the Ob—one of the biggest rivers of Siberia—are still called "virgin lands". Severe winter, arid summer and strong winds blowing all the year round scared away people from these lands for centuries. But 19 years ago, 350,000 enthusiasts went to the wild steppes in order to cultivate the virgin lands and to set up their homes there.

The people who came to the steppes of Kazakhstan had at their disposal powerful machines, and the scientific programme of developing agriculture that guaranteed high crop-yields and efficient measures to prevent erosion by wind. The scientists suggested that the traditional ploughing should be replaced by the mouldless loosening of the soil. For this purpose entirely new machines, the first of its kind produced in the world, were designed, and the factories to produce them were set up.

At present deep-soil looseners that destroy weeds, but preserve the soil structure and prevent erosion work in an area of more than 11 million hectares. The stubbles are left in the fields after the crops are harvested. It helps to bind the soil, and to retain snow in the fields, and thus gives the land more moisture in spring. The virgin lands gradually turned into the best-cultivated fields in the country.

Naturally, the crop-yields still vary. In some places they are higher, in others lower, one year below the average, the next year above. But, in general, the virgin lands successfully produce grain. As a result of the cultivation of virgin lands the yield of wheat in Kazakhstan has grown by more than 400 per cent since 1954.

It is planned to bring the

(Contd. on Third Cover)

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READ
FREE
INDIA

Population Still Eats At Progress In India

By RICHARD NENNEMAN
NEW DELHI:

INDIA is the boy Playing in the sand at the ocean on a summer afternoon. He builds a neat sand castle. Two hours later the tide comes in. Soon the castle is a soggy mess, waiting for another builder to come along when the tide goes out.

Progress has come slowly here. And the "tides" that have diluted and delayed progress are many:

— The sheer size and diversity of the subcontinent.

— An enduring proverty that still engulfs close to half the population.

— The density of this population and its still unchecked increase in numbers.

— An overemphasis on the wrong kind of economic development since independence.

— An admirable devotion to at least the forms of Western-style democracy, while the nation tries to jump in a few generations across the several centuries of economic development in the West without the corresponding economic freedoms enjoyed in the West.

DISCIPLINE NECESSARY

Still, a leading editor in Bombay, V. K. Narasimhan, is far from hopeless about his country's outlook. Assessing where India stands today and what must be done to move forward, he said: "We have the basic requisites for a breakthrough in India — power, banking, transport, education. All that is needed now is a recognition of the discipline we must have at various levels to achieve certain results. But the public sector alone can't bring about this discipline."

In this last statement, Mr. Narasimhan was referring to the many bridges Indians themselves must build across the age-old divisions in their society—divisions of caste, religion, language, of rich and poor, of city dweller and peasant—if it is to make more satisfactory progress.

India, with about one-third the land area of the continental United States, has almost three times as many people. The existence of such a large mass poses problems of government, of effective lines of communication and authority that no other nation faces except China.

It is compounded by the fact that the Indians are themselves a diverse people. There are at least 15 language groups, many of whom are linked only through the common use of English by the educated classes. To my question, "What would your common language be if the British had not been here for two centuries?" I got the answer, "You have asked the wrong question. Would there be an India?"

follow-through to achieve major results

J. R. D. Tata, who is roughly the David Rockefeller of India, spoke to a seminar of economic journalists in Delhi last month. Listing what he thought had gone wrong in India, population was the No. 1 flaw. He noted that after the initial planning to reduce births, interest had lagged. Yet, he said, population growth "is a problem so grievous that, if unsolved, it will jeopardize all our efforts at bettering the lot of our people and threaten our very survival as a politically stable nation."

NOWHERE NEAR GOAL

The government set as a goal 25 births per thousand by 1975.

In the quarter century since independence, the world's largest democracy has added nearly as many people as the entire population of the United States. Well-publicized birth control Schemes are continuing to fail short of target. So major strides in industrialization and agriculture are undercut. Too often the result is more wealth for the few rather than jobs for the many. The Christian Science Monitor's financial editor, who recently toured India argues that the well-educated elite of India must exert leadership for the democratic process to result in resolute policies and decisive action.

THE 'GREEN REVOLUTION'

A generation after independence, the nation has barely solved the basic problem of feeding its people. The much touted "green revolution" gave a substantial boost to agriculture in the late 1960's (more so in wheat than in rice, however). Yet with more and more mouths to feed, from 1950 to 1970 the amount of foodgrains available per person increased only 16 percent.

India has grown by 200 million since independence It was not until about 10 years ago that the government found out how seriously it had underestimated population growth. Family-planning programs were initiated, but there wasn't sufficient

Since the goal was set, the birth-rate has been reduced only from 42 to 37, and there seems to be little prospect of reaching the 25 figure anytime soon. And said Mr. Tata, "it dismays me to note that not one of our political leaders ever utters a word about the imperatives of family planning."

Yet, with close to 80 percent of the people living in some 565,000 villages, and a nation-wide literacy rate of less than 40 percent, the government faces a major challenge to communicate, gain acceptance for, and implement as intimate a message as family planning.

The emphasis at the moment has shifted to voluntary sterilization. Population continues to grow by 14 million a year, and unless this growth is checked, today's 556 million could find another 500 million added to it by the year 2000.

It is not that India has made no progress. In absolute terms, food production has been doubled. A large range of manufacturing has been developed. Over the past 25 years, some $125 billion in total investments has been made.

By this progress has been very largely dissipated by the huge increase in numbers of people. Forty percent of the people still live below the official poverty line of about $7 a month. Per capital income is $74 a year.

In spite of a confiscatory income tax at the top levels, only 4 percent of the nonagricultural population pays any at all (the first $630 in income being exempt). This fact illustrates one disturbing aspect of India's progress. The benefits of growth have been most unevenly spread. A small number have enjoyed most of the gains made. It now appears that India—as well as some other developing nations—has been following the wrong development track

And the Western world bears a major share of the responsibility for this. Since independence, India has been trying to copy the Western-type, capital-intensive industrial development that the West arrived at only after several other stages of development. Now it is becoming apparent that two societies are existing side by side—one which emulates Western-style living and which is the beneficiary of what industry there is, and the other, which is little changed from what it was 3,000 years ago.

ELEVATING THE MASSES

The need has been to lift the mass, to build simple manufacturing that would employ a large part of the burgeoning population in making simple consumer goods that this same mass (and not the small elite living in a handful of large cities) needed. This could have been done through the creation of industries requiring much labor

(Contd. on page 12)

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Suffering has its well-defined limits. Suffering can be both wise and unwise, and when the limit is reached, to prolong it would be not unwise, but the height of folly.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Apr. 8, 1973.

Pay Report

The Third Pay Commission has submitted its report. Expected to benefit about four million civilian and defence employees from Mar. 1 this year. The revised scales will cost the exchequer Rs. 144.60 crores a year. This excludes the Rs. 175 crores burden cast on the Government by three doses of interim relief.

It is not at all surprising that the report has not satisfied anyone, especially if one notes the glaring contrast existing now:

A peon in the Central Government service, wi h the minimum pay of Rs. 185 as recommended by the Commission aga nst Rs. 170 in 1970, will still be far below his counterpart either in a nationalised bank or many a private undertaking.

In 1970, the pay of a peon in a nationalised bank was Rs. 227, in the Reserve Bank Rs. 265, an Engineering company Rs. 217, an oil mill Rs. 293, an electrical manufacturing company Rs. 279, a petroleum company Rs. 218 and in the pharmaceutical industry Rs. 385.

A central clerk was getting Rs. 249 in 1970 while his counterpart in a nationalised bank Rs 292, in the Reserve Bank Rs. 387 an engineering company Rs. 261, an oil mills Rs. 415, an electrical company Rs. 456 and a pharmaceutical unit Rs. 522.

The right approach will be to fix equal pay in all establishments for similar jobs, and also control prices.

Public Service And Social Commitment

By R. C. DUTT

THE role of the civil service in democratic India has been a subject of discussion ever since the attainment of independence, but the discussion had until recently been focussed on two main issues.

The first was whether a civil service recruited and trained by a pre-independence foreign government could be an appropriate instrument for the policies of free, democratic governments of the post-independence era. The second issue is the broader one, common to most modern governments, namely, to what extent the civil service or the "bureaucracy", as it is generally termed, which by its training is wedded to rules and precedents, can carry out development functions, which democratic governments must necessarily discharge, but which, by their very nature, involve breaking new ground and creating new precedents.

These are important issues, and while the first is losing importance with the passing away of the old generation of the civil service, the second will continue to command attention, specially with the proliferation of "bureaucracy" in a modern state as it adopts new functions and assumes fresh roles in the life of the country.

FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM

The recruitment and, in particular, the training of the civil servants, the development of right attitudes and their proper motivation present problems which require dispassionate consideration. It is, however, not my object to discuss these problems.

A more fundamental problem has in the last two or three years entered into this discussion, and rightly so. This is the problem of commitment of the civil service. It is fundamental because on the answer to this question depends the answer to several others, such as the method of recruitment, the nature of training and the criterion for advancement. The question posed simply is: Is a civil servant to be completely devoid of commitment to any ideal or set of principles, to be moulded at will by the government of the day and prepared to carry out its bidding to the best of his ability: or is he expected to bear loyalty to certain ideals and principles? If it is the latter, what is the extent of this commitment? Should the commitment be only to certain broad objectives, or should it be to sharply defined principles and even to certain programmes of action?

NEUTRALITY CONCEPT

The tradition of the civil service which we in India have inherited from the British emphasises the neutrality of the civil servants. It is a tradition built on the nineteenth century concept of liberalism and parliamentary democracy. In the second half of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of the twentieth, the two contending political parties in Britain, the conservative and the liberal, did indeed have differenres of outlook, but these differences were more of emphasis than of kind.

The working class movement which brought the labour party to power. and which introduced a totally different concept of government's social responsibility, was still a matter for the future. The principle which still prevailed, though perhaps with different emphasis in the two principal political parties, was that "that government was the best which governed the least."

The possibility, therefore, of ruling parties following widely different, and even conflicting policies, as they came into power were remote. In these circumstances, and functioning, as they did, within the limited ambit of governmental activities: the civil servants had few, if any occasion at all, to face a conflict arising out of government's decisions or actions. Even so, he was committed: committed, for instance, the then univesally occepted principle of nationalism and to all that the concept of nationalism implied, such as national honour, integrity and even to the more extreme from which nationalism then took, namely, imperialism.

Few civil servants would have denied their total allegiance to these principles. Those who did not subscribe to them, such as the marxists. would not have thought of joining the civil service, or if they did, would have been complete misfits.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Circumstances have vastly changed since. The most important change is the social responsibilsty which the state has assumed even in the developed "capitalist" countries of the world, and more so in the developing countries. This new role has added volumes to the functions and activities of government bringing with it not merely the possibility but the fact on sharp differences in outlook and opinion.

In a developing country like India the state is not only directly interested in, but has to accept responsibitity, for instance for industrial growth which, in the early phase of capitalist development, had been left largely to private entrepreneurs with the minimum of state "interference". The fact of state intervention as well as the mode of such intervention to induce growth can be, however, as in fact it is, the subject of

(Contd. on page 11)

ON THE COVER

Seven Soviet Winners of the Jawaharlal Nehru Awards—writers, composers, artists and journalists—for outstanding services to the cause of Indo-Soviet friendship were in Madras on Apr. 1 to 3.

Our cover page shows three of them:

Irakli Abashidze: Born in Koni (Georgia), a cultural centre, in 1909. Grew up with the revolutionary ferment and was a witness of the Revolution. His poem "Captain Bukhaidze" on the war theme is well known all over the country. But he achieved his creative high in his "Indian Cycle" poems. In these poems India became his spiritual motherland. These poems had such a tremendous success in Georgia that in 1966 he was awarded the highest award of the Republic—the award named after Shota Rustaveli.

Shalva Mshvelidze: Born in Tbilisi in 1904 and grew up in the atmosphere of Georgian folk songs. He is now Professor of the Tbilisi State Conservatory. Amongst the notable works of Mshvelidze are the symphonic "Zviadauri" (1940) and "Mindia" (1950), the opera 'Fairy Tale about Tariel" and the recently completed opera "Aluda Kstelauri".

Mshvelidze has spent a long time studying Indian folk musical traditions. Using the characteristic notes and rhythmic peculiarities of Indian music, he has created a number of works on Indian themes. Mention may be made of "*The Indian Suite*" and the ballet in five parts, "Amrita." Mshvelidze has written a number of articles and essays on Indian music in the Soviet Press.

A. A. Korotskaya: Born in 1915, completed her studies at the Moscow Institute for Architecture, and was in India for four years. During this period she had the opportunity of meeting Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and many other personalities of India. In 1955 her first work "The Architecture of India" was published. Later on, her other work "The Medieval Temples of Mysore", "The Temples of Khajuraho," "In Indian Cities" etc , were published. In 1966 her work "The Treasures of Indian Art" was published. Before this in 1964 she published a monograph on the "Characteristic Features of Indian Architecture in the Early Medieval Period". She is at present working as a Senior Research Assistant in the Scientific Research Institute of the Theory and History of Architecture. In 1970, she again went to India and is working on the theme of "Building of Cities in India".

City Train Timings

APRIL 1, 1973

MADRAS CENTRAL

	Dep.	Arr.
Howrah Janata	8–40	19–15
Tatanagar Exp.	12–40	14–10
Howrah Mail	20–55	5–05
Circars Exp.	22–00	6-40
New Delhi Exp.	8–25	17–55
Hyderabad Exp.	13–35	10–15
Delhi Janata	14–00	15–55
New Delhi-Air-conditioned/Grand Trunk Express*	19–45	10–55
Dadar Express	10–00	17–15
Bombay Janata	13–40	14–05
Bombay Mail	21–50	5–15
Tirupati Exp.	7–15	21–40
Brindavan Exp.	8–20	19–05
Bangalore Exp.	14–35	13–30
Bangalore Mail	21–15	5-40
West Coast Exp.	12–25	14–45
Kerala Express	16–25	9–35
Mangalore Mail	20–20	7–00
Nilagiri Exp.	20–00	7–25
Cochin Mail	19–20	6–10
Gudur Pass.	8–45	22–50
Gudur Pass. (via Arkonam)	—	22-10
Vijayawada Pass.	15-20	12-40
Vijayawada Parcel Passenger	23–45	4–15
Raichur Pass.	9–25	20–10
Tirupati Pass.	17–00	9–45
Bangalore Pass.	6–05	21–00
Jolarpettai Pass.	11–20	14-35
Arkonam Pass.	18–10	—
Coimbatore Parcel Passenger	21–25	6–10

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(MAIN LINE)

Rock Fort Express	9–10	17–10
VirudunagarJanata	13–40	7–45
Rameswaram Exp.	19–30	8–05
Tiruchi Pass	6–45	
Villupuram Pass.	15–55	12–05
Trivandrum Pass.	21–30	5-20
Madurai Parcel Passenger	22–25	4–50
Shencottah Pass,	—	21–10
(CHORD LINE)		
Trivandrum Exp.	8--10	18 10
Tirunelveli Exp.	18–15	8–35
Trivandrum Mail	20–30	7–15
Pandyan Exp.	20-10	6–40
Tuticorin Express	21–45	5–40
Rameswaram Passenger	11–00	16–25
MADRAS BEACH		
Chingleput Pass.	17–07	10–40
Kancheepuram Passenger	17–33	9–55
Kancheepuram Passenger *	18–12	9–18

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Sunday service will be observed only on Madras Beach-Tambaram Electrified suburban section.

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Science Newsletter

New Light On The Origin of Continents

"Scientifically, it is as significant as the Darwin theory of evolution or Einstein's laws of energy and motion, and as important to mankind"—thus said the eminent oceanographer, Maurice Ewing, referring to a theory once regarded as heresy and wild speculation, but since proved to be entirely true.

According to this theory, known as "continental drift", today's continents were once all parts of a single, huge land mass called Pangaea, (Greek for "all islands"), which started breaking up about 200 million years ago into fragments that drifted apart. These fragments then rearranged themselves into the continents as we see them today. The drift still continues and the shape of the world to come will not be the same as it is today.

Geologists now agree that continental drift is indeed a fact, although some of them think that there were originally two parental land masses, Laurasia and Gondwanaland, rather than one Pangaea.

The 200-million-year old story is however only one phase in the huge cyclic pattern of the movement of the earth's continents that has been going on for thousands of millions of years. Geologists say continents have fused together and broken apart several times in the earth's long history. How often this has happened no one knows.

It was in 1912 that a German geologist, Alfred Wegener, put forward the view that all the present continents might have come out of one huge land mass. As evidence, he pointed out that rock formations in Africa's west coast and South America's east coast were of the same age and structure and so could have originated only from the same geological womb. He also showed that identical plant and animal fossils could be found in different parts of the world like Africa, South America, Australia and India. For all his pains, Wegener was only scoffed at by his fellow scientists and his theory was branded "outrageous" The main objection of the doubters was that Wegener could not explain the mechanism underlying this geological phenomenon. In other words, he could not say what forces could have caused this breaking up and drifting.

The first evidence in support of Wegener's claim came in the 1950's when oceanographers discovered ridges and mountains in the oceans. These form a 47,000-mile-long chain that meanders through the major oceans like the seam on a football. Down the middle of this chain, lava was found to be oozing out. Sonar measurements of the ocean depths showed that the sediments on the ocean floors are only a few hundred million years old although the oceans themselves are billions of years old. The oceanographers concluded that obviously, new ocean floors were being formed continuously by the hardening of the lava coming out of the ridges.

In 1960, the late Dr. Harry Hess of Princeton University, U.S.A., provided further explanation. He said the earth's mantle got heated by radioactive elements located in the interior of the earth and the currents set in motion moved lava up and forced it through the relatively fluid upper layer of the mantle. It was this hot matter that surfaced at the mid-ocean ridges. The lava then hardened forming a layer called lithosphere. Hess said fresh lava coming out of the ridges would cling to the older lithosphere and start moving slowly in a lateral direction. The process was continuous taking the lava thousands of miles across ocean floors When the moving layers approached land, they passed into the deep troughs located there and thus plunged back into the earth's interior. Successive layers of moving lava are called "plates". There are perhaps about twenty plates on which all the continents and oceans are situated and each plate is about 50 to 100 kilometres thick.

The creeping plates, it is believed, moved the continents like giant conveyor belts, causing them to drift apart. But the theory was so unusual that Hess himself described it as "geopoetry". Conclusive evidence soon came to turn this poetry into a scientific fact.

Two young scientists, Vine and Mathews, suggested that the theory of continuous creation of ocean floors (plates) could be tested by measuring the magnetic field of the particles embedded in the plates. It was already known that the polarity of the earth's magnetic field had inexplicably reversed itself several times in the past, the last reversal occurring about 700,000 years ago. In other words, the magnetic particles in some of the plates point towards north and others towards south. If the ocean floors are indeed created from lava that flowed out of the mid-ocean ridges, there should be identical series of magnetic reversal patterns on either side of the ridges. Vine and others measured the polarities at various selected places in the oceans with magnetometers towed just over the ocean bed by an oceanographic vessel. The patterns were found just as predicted.

This proved the Hess theory, but to piece together the sequence of events that had taken place since the breakup of Pangaea or Laurasia and Gondwanaland, much more information was necessary. Samples of sediment and rocks had to be brought up from ocean floors and their ages and compositions determined. To achieve this, five American Institutes, headed by the Scripps Oceanographic Institution of California, commissioned a strange looking ship, the Glomar Challenger, fitted with specially designed deep-sea drilling equipment.

Since August 1968, this ship has drilled hundreds of holes in deep ocean floors and brought back several samples of bottom mud and bedrock. Several samples have since been analysed in various oceanographic laboratories in U.S.A. The exploration is continuing but geologists have already accumulated enough data to prove the Drift Theory and to reconstruct the geological events of the last 200 million years

The studies reveal, among other things, that the "plate" containing the Indian sub-continent has made the longest movement—about 5,600 miles in 200 million years. India was originally attached to Antarctica, and after the crack-up, a rectangular land mass on which India was situated, migrated northward. In the course of this migration—roughly after 65 million years' journey—India broke away from Antarctica. The land mass finally rammed into the southern margin of Asia throwing up the Himalayas. India is believed to have passed over a hot spot near the Equator, where lava was pouring out of an ocean ridge. This lava got attached to the Indian land mass and later hardened into the present Deccan plateau.

Also from the South, the North American plate drifted northwest and South America westward while the European plate moved to north followed by Africa. A violent upheaval occurred in the Mediterranean area, where Africa crashed into Europe, resulting in the creation of Pyrenees and Alps mountains. The last to get detached from the

(*Contd. on page 10*)

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FUN AND LAUGHTER

COLOSSAL!

This story is about an American sailor "talking big."

"Battleship," said he, "Listen. The flagship of our fleet is so big that the captain goes round the deck in his car to give orders.

A Simonstown sailor in the corner of the pub smiled. "Ever seen our flagship?" he asked. "No," said the Yank. "You ought to. Go down in the kitchen when you do. Place is so large that the cook has to go through the Irish stew in the submarine to see if the pototoes are cooked."

* * *

THOSE INTRUDERS

A visitor had taken rooms at the hotel.

As he was signing the visitor's book an insect hopped on to the page.

He put down his pen and told the clerk that he couldn't stay there.

Asked the reason, he answered pointing to the intruder: "Well, it's bad enough when those little beggars attack you in the night, but when they come to see the number of your room it's a bit too thick."

* * *

MORE HELPFEL

Peter was playing at Johnny White's house. When it was time to go home, it started to rain. Mrs. White however, gave Johnny's raincoat and goloshes to Peter.

"Don't take so much trouble, Mrs. White," said Peter, politely.

"I'm sure your mother would do as much for Johnny," she replied.

"My mother would do more," said Peter. "She'd ask Johnny to stay to supper."

* * *

The pround father called up the newspaper to report the birth of twins. The news-editor not hearing clearly said. "Will you repeat that?"

"Not if I can help it" shot back the father.

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HIS DOUBT

The minister was before the magistrate on a charge of speeding. He denied the offence.

"The constable," emphasised the magistrate. "insists that you were doing over thirty five. You say it was less than fifteen I don't want to doubt either of you. Can you think of any reason that would cause the constable to say you were doing thirtyfive? Is there any grudge he owes you?'

* * *

WISER

The woman had been very trying to the shop assistant, whose temper was beginning to get a little uncertain.

"I think you had better fetch the manager," sniffed the customer. "Perhaps he'll have a little more sense than you seem to possess."

"Oh, he has madam," was the tired reply. "He went out as you came in!"

Awkward

Farmer Giles congratulated one of his men on his new suit, but suggested the use of a coat-hanger to make the coat hang better.

The following Sunday he saw the man wearing the suit again.

"I can't manage that coat 'anger, sir" he said. "It was very trying across the shoulders, and when I stooped the hook pushed my hat off.

GOOD ENOGGH

The cheapjack had been holding forth on the wonderful properties of the anti-fat preparation he was selling.

"But are you sure it's all you say it is?" demanded a sceptic in the crowd.

"Am I sure, madam?" came the retort. "Why you can take it from me it was this very preparation that made the Tower of Pisa lean!"

* * *

JEWISH!

Two Jews were bathing. One of them had a narrow escape from being drowned. A sturdy seaman pulled him out.

The other Jew said: "You ought to give that man five shillings for saving your life."

"No," replied the man who had been saved. "I vil not gif him no five shilln, I vas half dead. I gif him half-a-crown."

* * *

Boastful Yankee: "Yes, sir. I belong to New York City."

Englishman: "Glad to hear it. I was beginning to think New York belonged to you."

DISAPPOINTING

"My first visitor," exclaimed Mrs. Newlywed when she heard the door bell ring.

She dashed upstairs, powdered her face, rouged her cheeks, patted her hair and pinned on a flower and dashed to the door.

With her sweetest smile, she opened it, to be greeted with: "Any laces to-day, mum?"

* * *

A MISUNDERSTANDING

"There you are, sir, it fits you beautifully!" cried the persevering salesman who had persuaded a farmer to try on a bargain line in overcoats. "Now as a special favour, sir, you can have that coat for just half the catalogue price. What do you say, sir?"

"Really? What is the price of the catalogue?" replied the farmer.

* * *

MUSICAL FOOTSTEPS

"You've been a long time serving that customer. What's holding up the sale" demanded the bootshop manager.

"The same key!" replied the assistant.

"He happens to be a musician, sir, and he's trying to find two boots that squeak in the same key!" replied the assistant.

* * *

FASHION!

"Is my hat on straight?"

"Yes - hurry or we'll be late."

"Are you sure it is on perfectly straight?"

"Yes, I tell you—you couldn't get it straighter."

"Then I'll have to go back again, John. You know it isn't stylish to wear this kind of a hat straight."

* * *

KNOCK OFF!

"Just fancy! That man over there is paid to stop people working!" cid Jimmy.

"Go on! What does he do?" asked Tom.

"Why, he blows the hooter at the big factory!" said Jimmy.

* * *

TEACHER'S ADVICE

"Johnny, I'll have you behave yourself when you're at home. What would your teacher say if you acted like that at school."

"She's say 'Behave yourself—remember you're not at home now'."

* * *

"Will you guarantee the upholstery of this car?" demanded the prospective purchaser.

"Madam," replied the salesman, "the proof of the padding is in the seating."

He Knew!

A general and a colonel were walking down the street. They met many privates, and each time the general took the salute he would mutter:

"The same to you."

The Colonel's curiosity soon got the better of him. and he asked: "Why do you always say that?"

The general answered:

"I was once a private and I know what they are thinking."

* * *

Clever Boy!

"You describe an obstract noun as being something you can think of but cannot touch," said teacher who was examining Harry's homework "Can you give me an example?"

"Yes, sir," replied Harry. "A red-hot poker, sir!"

LAST STRAW

The young wife was heartbroken.

"What's the matter?" asked a friend.

"Oh, my husband is so absent-minded. After breakfast he left a tip on the table, and when I handed him his hat he gave me another tip."

"Well, that's nothing to worry about. Just force of habit."

"That's what worries me. He kissed me when I gave him his overcoat."

* * x

LITTLE LAUGHS

"Mrs. Jiggs, four of your boys are climbing my fruit trees."

"My goodness—and where has little Kenneth got to?"

* * *

Hussian: What is the last letter of July?

Johnnie: Y.

Hussian: Why? Because I want to know, of course!"

* * *

She (poetically): "Isn't that sunset glorious, Harold. The bars of red and gold are Nature's own efforts in picture making. What—"

He: "Yes, dear, it Puts me in mind of something, too. I can't think whether it's streaky bacon or a plate of sliced tomatoe."

* * x

Believe me or not I've often been taken for my daughter.

Oh! Surely not. You don't look old enough to have a daughter so old.

* * *

Many criminals, says a detective, cannot write their own names.

But one or two are very good at writing other peoples'.

* * *

Guest: I say. landlord, your food is worse than it was last year.

Landlord: Im possible, sir.

Birth Control For Insects

By V. D. TRIVADI

PROGRESS calls for a constant change in outlook, change of the sort that has taken place at the University of Agcicultural Sciences in Hebbal, near Bangalore. Where once the experts talked about pest control'. now they speak of 'pest management'. Eradication is out; what is *in* is a new science based on the policy of 'live and let live'. Pests will be allowed to live but not to pester man.

Man will share the earth, or will try hard to share it with pests, crops, other humans, the soil, the atmosphere, and wild life. To such problems as he may have in agriculture, he will bring an integrated approach—an approach that will zap no one but force them all to live in peace with one onother. Sounds like the Garden of Eden? Well, not quite. For man, not God is going to run the place. And man is going to take some of the fun out of life for the bugs. They will be allowed to mate but man is ensuring that it will be a waste of bug time,

The bugs are to be sterilised. No vasectomies, no IUD of course, but mass sterilisation with chemicals.

In this connexion a new word has come into the dictionary. The word is "chemosterilants" or chemical agents to induce mass sterilisation in the laboratory.

The idea is to produce a large number of sterile and barren bugs in the laboratory and then release them into the environment. Because of the fierce competition between the sterile and the fertile for a mate the chances of productive mating will be cut by half and breeding thus reduced. As time goes by, scientists' reason, the pest population will have been brought down to manageable levels.

The procedure is not as simple as it may sound. To bring down breeding without interfering with mating, it is important that the proportion of the sterile to the fertile is over "fifty-to-one". In other words, for every fertile male or female in the environment, there should be upwards of fifty sterile males and barren females. The number of pests must be ascertained with reasonable accuracy. This too is a part of the work conducted by the University of Agricultural Sciences, and various methods are under trial for developing better methods of obtaining these "vital statistics"

There are several advantages in using sterilisation to beat the bugs as against pesticides. while making sure that the balance of nature is not upset—or if upset so gradually as not to upset the whole environment —it eliminates ehe chances of chemical pollution. No pesticides means no danger to human life from poisonous fumes or contaminated food. Beneficial bugs are also allowed to continue their good work. Nor is there any chance of the pests developing resistance, to this form of pesticide. A loss of virility and fertility means irreversibility.

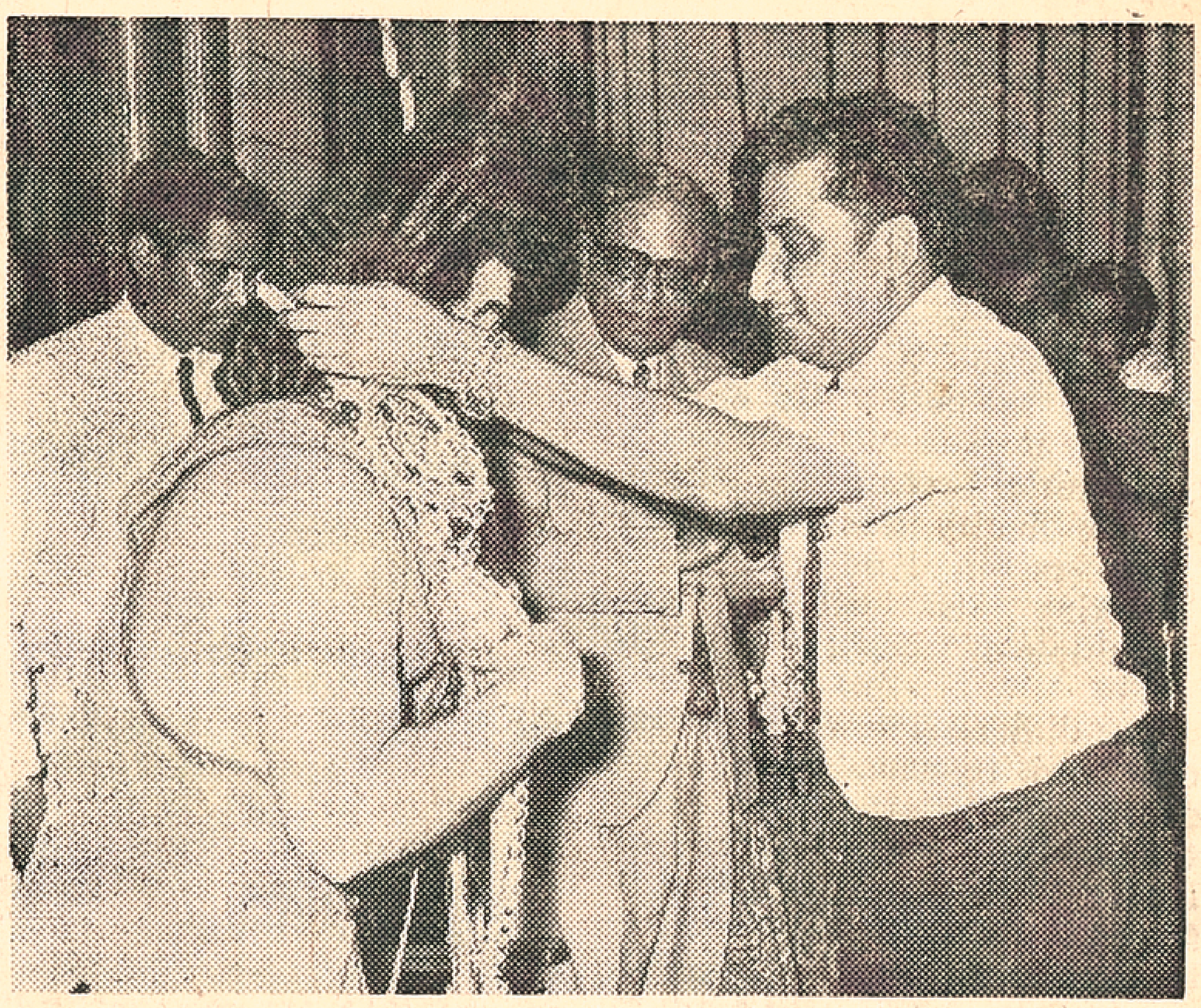
The concept of chemosterilants was first propounded and used by an American named Dr. E.F.Knipling. It interested fellow scientists immediately and won favour with government departments as well. It caught on even more rapidly, elsewhere in the world, when Dr. Knipling was able to prove that it could successfully be used in the battle against thirty different kinds of pests. The W. H. O. also used it successfully in its battle agaigst mosquitoes.

To organise this type of research in India, government invited to India a distinguished scientist from the U.S. Government's Department of Agriculture. He is the Czech-born Dr. Alexej B. Borkovec, a naturalised American. Dr Borkovec spent three months at the University of Agricultural Sciences at Bangalore training anti-pest workers, travelling and lecturing to Indian scientists. agricul ural inspectors and government servants. He worked with groups of 30 at a time. Among them were several distinguished participants, including Dr S. Saxena of the University of Rajasthan.

For chemost rilants, the USA is the only place to visit, according to Dr. Borkovec. "Ninety per cent of the chemosterilants produced in the world, says Dr. Borkovec, come from USA.

Safety In Numbers?

A Japanese businessman by the name of Toshio Tamamoto, writes *Newsweek* liked the little Thai town of Chiang Mai so much that he decided to settle down there. Soon he bought himself thirteen wives, aged between 13 and 17 years at prices reportedly ranging from $250 to $500. Although having more than one wife is not against the law in Thailand, he was nevertheless called to account. Inquiries with the Japanese authorities revealed that Tamamoto was smuggling narcotics from Thailand to Japan and had another ten wives "strategically located" in Hongkong, Taiwan, South Korea and Bombay. as well as "several" more in Japan.



Manohar's "Viswamitrar" was staged recently under the auspicious of Mylapore Academy. Justice S. Maharajan presided. Picture shows Mr. A. N. Srinivasa Rao, President of the Academy, garlanding Mr. R. S. Manohar.

Common Goal Of India And USSR

MADRAS: 'The peoples of India and the Soviet Union have many problems in common and their outlook on several of the world problems is similar; both of us are peace-loving and strive to establish peace in the world; wherever there are areas of friction and war, we attempt to contain them and to remove the cause of friction" said Mr. V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, Education Minister of Tamilnadu felicitating the Nehru Award Laureates of the Soviet Union at a reception held in their honour in Madras on April 2. Mr. D. B. Madan President of the Madras Branch of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society, presided.

Mr. Nedunchezhiyan in the course of the address traced the history of India's policy of non-alignment evolved by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru and said, "it was the Soviet Union which first recognised the sincerity of purpose with which our late Prime Minister Nehru worked for world peace and this recognition on the part of the USSR infused a great sense of encouragement in the minds of the people of India and the doctrine of non-alignment assumed great significance."

The Minister added that even now India looks forward to the Soviet Union for guidance and inspiration in its striving to attain economic progress. "We need the firm friendship of the Soviet Union whose people, we know, always wish the good of this country," he added.

Mr. Das, of the Madras Branch of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations congratulated the recepients of Nehru Award.

Mr. Irakli Abashidze, and Mr. I. D. Serebriakov, thanked the organisers of the function.

Mr. V. V. Ivanov, Head of the Cultural Branch of the USSR Consulate General in Madras welcomed the gathering and Mr. A. A. Filipenko Head of the Information Branch proposed a vote of thanks.

Earlier addressing a press conference held at the Information Branch of the USSR Consulate General. Mr. V. A. Makhotin, one of the Nehru Award Laureates. answering questions about the freedom of writers and artistes in the Soviet Union pointedly replied that the Soviet artistes and writers are proud that they have no freedom to propagate war and advocate national discord. "We, Soviet writers, are forbidden to preach racism and to indulge in pornography and valgarisation of sex problems. We do not tolerate championing of certain morals that are incompatible with a socialist soci ty. When people respect each other, should there be freedom for everyone to call the other a 'scoundral'?" he asked.

In a categorical way, Mr. Makhotin said that the 3000 journalists of the Novosti Press Agency are keen on cooperating more and more with the Indian journalists in order to promote Indo-Soviet frienship and better understanding.

When asked about the remuneration that a poet gets for his creative works, Mr. Irakli Abashidze said that a line of poetry is paid from 1 rouble to 2 roubles for the first publication and 40–60 per cent for the subsequent publications. Of course, he said, a poet gets more and more, if he turns out good poems with more circulation. Prominent poets elected to the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and are honoured.

Direct Taxation of Agriculture-2

Actual Income And Productivity

In the second part of this series, the author, Dr. K.N. Raj, in his Ramaswami Memorial Lecture, explains the difficulty in levying surcharges on land revenue, making its incidence a multiple of what it is now.

The difficulty, however, is that the land revenue now levied does not adequately reflect differences in the productivity of land. There are several reasons for this. In many areas of the country, more particularly in the ex-zamindari tracts, the amount now payable as land revenue is simply the rent that the tenant or sub-tenant was required to pay under the zamindari system and, in cases where the intermediaries chose to retain some land for themselves, an arbitrarily fixed amount determined by the State at the time of abolition of the system. Since there was a wide range of differentiation among tenants, the rent that was being paid by them had naturally little relation to the productivity of the land they held. In States that were formed by merger of territories belonging to feudatories, the land revenue payable in some regions, is several times as the amount payable on land of similar kind in other regions within the same State.

Even in the ex-ryotwari regions, revenue settlement has not been undertaken for some decades except in some areas and, in several of them, there have been since then sufficient developments such as extension of irrigation to upset the *inter se* relationships in productivity established by previous settlements. Further, under the system of settlement that has been practised in these regions, the productivity of land has been assessed in terms of the basic cereal that is grown in each area and not in terms of the crops that were actually grown. With the growing demand for and the consequent popularity of non-food crops that are more remunerative, some of which can be even grown in soil that would be regarded as inferior for cereals, this method of assessment has obvious limitations. To correct this deficiency, several States have taken recourse to additional cesses on the area under selected crops. But the crops covered by such cesses are seldom comprehensive enough, and the rate of the levy is not itself determined in any systematic way with reference to the productivity of the land under such crops; the correction achieved is therefore not only *ad hoc* in character but generally very partial. In any case it is evident that, even where crop cesses are levied, land revenue by itself does not provide an adequate basis for introducing progression into the taxation of agriculture. In several parts of the country, doubling or trebling of the land revenue will only make this form of taxation more regressive in its incidence than it already is.

FORMIDABLE DIFFICULTIES

This is among the reasons why the replacement of land revenue by extension of income-tax to agriculture has had considerable appeal to many. If the income actually accuring from agriculture is assessed exactly as income from any other source, all the factors that are relevant to the productivity of land will have been indirectly taken into account and the rates of tax applicable at different levels of income will introduce the necessary degree of progression. In principle, there is perhaps no better way of making the entire system of direct taxation more equitable and logical.

In practice, however, the assessment of agricultural income presents formidable difficulties. They arise from the nature of agricultural operations and the conceptual problems involved in distin guishing current from capital costs. Wherever taxation of agricultural income has been attempted, the result has been either extensive evasioa (as when the assessees could afford to secure necessary accounting and legal assistance) or harassment (as when the assessees could not secure such assistance). This has been the experience not only in countries like the United States but in India itself wherever it has been in operation. In fact, apart from the tax collected from the larger plantations in States where they form a significant segment of the agricultural sector, the revenue from agricultural income-tax has been negligible hitherto. There is adequate reason to believe that this is not because incomes above the stipulated exemption limit have been themselves negligible but mainly due to the problems posed in the actual administration of the tax. Even in the case of plantations, one finds several instance of their audited accounts showing contiauous losses alongside growth in acreage and output; of course, the internal inconsistency of these phenomena cannot by itself be an adequate ground for questioning the correctness of the accounts, since there is no law in the country which lays down that only enterprises in the public sector can show continuous losses and still insist on expanding their operations!

For all these reasons, despite the obvious attractions of extending income-tax to agriculture, there has been growing recognition the world over to find an alternative method of direct taxation of agriculture. This has been in evidence particularly in the context of countries in which agricultural output forms a high proportion of the total national income and the distribution of landholdings is sufficiently skewed for progression being made an essential element of such direct taxation.

A common feature of most of the alternatives suggested is that the proposed tax is *not* linked to the actual income derived from agriculture but to the potential productivity of land given the soil and climatic conditions, the choices open in respect of the crops that can be grown, and the prevailing practices and techniques of agricultural production in the area. In so far as the tax base proposed is potential productivity, it is essentially a return to the principle underlying the system of land revenue in ryotwari areas. The differences from this system, and between the various proposals themselves, are mainly in regard to the method of assessment of the potential productivity of a holding.

POTENTIAL PRODUCTIVITY

Some link potential productivity mainly with properties of the soil, availability of water, and climatic conditions, and would assess it for a holding with reference to the actual productivity of land in tracts that are reasonably homogeneous in respect of these objective factors without going into the actual crop-mix in the holding or even the average productivity of land under each of these crops in the tract concerned. The presumption is that once the land in each holding is classified according to the characteristics of soil, water supply and climate, the choices open to it can be objectively determined and it is up to each holding to arrive at the optimal crop-mix without the choice being affected by the amount of tax payable.

Others would not attempt detailed classification of soil in each holding—on the ground that the properties of the soil can now be modified to a considerable extent by the application of chemical nutrients—but place more importance on going into the observed crop-mix in each holding and the average productivity of land under each crop in tracts that are more or less homogeneous in respect of soil, water supply and climate. The implicit reasoning here is that, while soil need not be regarded as imposing any absolute constraints on the choice of crops or on the productivity that can be realised, there could be other constraints on the choices actually open and that is, therefore, essential to take into account the crops grown in each

(Contd. on page 7)

Antiquity Snatchers

Robbing ancient settlements, temples and sepulchres is a growing business today. It is encouraged by the "fashion for antiquities" in the United States, Western Europe, Japan. This has produced, to quote the British Sunday Times weekly, "the fever to destroy the past for a quick profit."

The roobers are well organised. Equipped with explosives, electric saws and other instruments, they cut the walls of ancicnt temples, blow up tombstones, main priceless statues. The American arachaeologist Willis Andrews writes that whole areas have become "as desolate as a lunar landscape."

The theft marketing of antiquities have proved a simple matter. For the convenience of transportation, they are cut up, disguised as conventional goods and taken out on planes and ships. In 1971 according to far from complete data, some 50 million dollars' worth of antiquities stolen in other countries were sold in the United States. American collectors and museums pay large sums for them without asking where and how they were procured. Strange stone carvings of faces from an unknown African civilization of the 12th–15th centuries were on sale in Belgium and France. They had come from the Lake Chad region.

The Indo-China war has led the pillage of many cultural monuments in Cambodia and South Vietnam. Antiquities are usually taken out of these countries in the luggage of American army officers and diplomats.

The U.N. Economic and Social Council recently discussed the question of adopting a convention obliging states to take vigorous measures against illegal traffic in works of art. The delegates of the U.S.A. aud of some West European countries, however, gave no support to the proposal. The barbarous destruction and robbing of monuments of the past of the American. Asian and African peoples continue.

FILM REVIEW

" ARANGETRAM "

IT is one thing to break new ground but it is quite another to do something daring. If Director K. Balachander does not produce a daring picture, it is not Balachander. And so it is, that in his latest offering "Arangetram", he has handled a most delicate subject with confidence, courage and consummate skill.

The story is all about an orthodox Brahmin 'Purohit" and the members of his family. The family is large in numbers, but poor in resources and the smart children have high ambitions. But the father whose income is uncertain, but certainly small is unable to give them proper education or even ordinary comforts. Lalitha, the eldest daughter of the family is unable to bear the sight and plight of the children, whose future is nothing but darkness. She resolves to take up a job and somehow or other put the family in good shape. She does take a job, but soon finds that the world is a bad world and that man is not always virtuous and she resigns herself to the life of a prostitute, just to enable her family to live well and in course of time in affluence. The troubles and turmoils she undergoes, the discovery about the way of her life by the members of her family and how ultimately a young reformer boldly comes forward and marries her form the rest of the story.

S. V. Subbiah as the Brahmin priest gives a truly convincing performance, while it is Premila that steals the show with her sparkling portrayal of the difficult role of the heroine. In some sequences, she almost touches the standard of Savithri and Vijaya in acting and in the delivery of dialogues. It is remarkable, how soon she has shaped herself as a good artiste. Others in the cast include Sivakumar, Sashikumar, Gemini Mahalingam, M. N. Rajam and Sundari Bai.

Though the picture has proved to be quite popular, two types of criticisms have been levelled against it. Poverty and abundance of children not being the monopoly of any particular caste, creed or community, there was no need to emphasise the caste of the main character of rhe film, and that the reputation of the community was bound to suffer. It may be that there is a measure of justification for this criticism; but it must be remembered that unless the wonts and habits of a particular community are portrayed, the realism of the picture will suffer. Another criticism is that the heroine in spite of all travails should set a better example and not yield to the easy way of sacrificing virtue. However, it is necessary to point out that the picture claims only to present an unfortunate facet of life and the hidden moral of the picture is that one should not take advantage of another's helpless position. The credit of the director consists in presenting the heroine as an object of pity and sympathy and not one of dislike and disapproval.

In one sequence there is a dialogue which suggests that a woman belonging to a particular community should not descend to such a vocation as if to suggest that persons of other communities may conduct themselves in a like manner without blame. The answer is that even in ancient scriptures, a high standard of virture and probity was insisted for the Brahmin community and even for ordinary offences like theft or assault, a higher and a more severe punishment was prescribed for that community.

At a function held to felicitate him on his producing this film, Balachander confessed that in the course of the production of the picture, his close friends and even his associates "assured" him that the picture would prove a great "flop". They also predicted that his film career would come to an end. However, their apprehensions proved incorrect and he was happy that his ambition to produce such a picture in his life time materialised. He also disclosed that during the making of the picture, he insisted that all artistes should be present at the taking of each sequence, whether they were participants in it or not, so that they can appreciate fully the atmosphere of the story. He also said that among hundred & of letters received by him congratulating him on his picture the majority were from members of the community whom he was supposed to portray in a bad colour.

In the picture, we witness in many scenes the realism of Satyajit Ray, though we also see touches of "Do Raha" and shades of Cho's Play, 'Yarukkum Vetkamillai". But nevertheless the story and the presentation have an impact and individuality of their own and Balachander may well regard this picture as a great feather in his cap. The picture constitutes a landmark in the Tamil film world.

—M. A. SRINIVASAN.

From page 6

holding and how much can be secured thereby.

HOLDINGS TAX

The Agricultural Holdings Tax proposed recently by the Committee on Taxation of Agricultural Wealth and Income approximates more closely to the second of these two variants. In so far as it is based on the actual crop-mix, and takes into account the productivity of each crop or crop group, it is in effect a systematic way of making crop cesses the basis of direct taxation of agriculture and introducing progression into it in a way that cannot be done now on the basis of the existing land revenue system. The details of the methods and procedures proposed, and the possible differences of opinion on them, are not so important as the fact that basically the objective is to avoid determination of actual income or productivity for each holding but to find a reasonable basis for assessing potential productivity with minimal scope for arbitrariness in administration. This approach has the additional advantage that by relating the tax to certain norms of productivity, it offers some built-in incentives to achieve higher levels of productivity, since the gains so secured by the producer will not be subjected to additional tax at the margin as in the case of the prevailing systems of taxation of income.

(To be Concluded)

A Tatog Folktale :

Father And Son

ONCE there lived a peasant who had a son, who was still very young. He loved the boy with all his heart. He worked hard in the field from sunrise till sunset, but all his free time he spent with his little lad.

The years passed by, and the little boy grew up and became his father's helper in whatever he did.

The peasant had grown old, and one day he took his son with him to work in the field.

They walked a long time, carrying heavy hoes on their shoulders. At last the old man grew tired.

"I can't walk any longer," he complained to the son. "I have grown feeble and my legs won't carry me any further. Be so kind and carry me a while, my son. I will rest a little, and then I shall be able to proceed."

The lad agreed.

In this manner they went further along their way. The young peasant trudged heavily along the dusty road, his back bent low under the burden of the sly old man.

"Tell me, lad," he began questioning his son, "what bird is twittering in that bush?"

The son didn't answer, as if he hadn't heard the question.

"What tree is growing there by the road?" the old man persisted.

The lad only knitted his eyebrows.

They reached a brook. The old man said:

"Stop. my son, I'm thirsty."

The lad grumbled, shrugged his shoulders and dropped his father to the ground like a sack of flour.

"Drink and be quick about it!"

The old peasant looked up at his son, dipped his cupped hand in the brook, drank some water and then said with a chuckle:

"When you were small and light, like I am now, and I was big and strong, like you, we covered this road much quickly yet I found time to answer all your questions, and to comply with all your wishes. Tell me, my son, do you remember that?"

The lad blushed, and the old man rose lightly to his feet and, without looking back, strode quickly down the road.

Not ready

Although women have succeeded in bettering their social position in many capitalist countries, there are some where they are still disfranchised. One such country is the European principality of Liechtenstein (population: 21,800), where women outnumber men. The next election is to be held to decide whether or not the women should be allowed to vote. According to a London report, the overwhelming majority decided that "women are still not ready for the vote". As one may guess, only men took part in the referendum.

* * *

Vocal Notes

The growing number of crimes especially burglaries, in the United States has given a New York firm a bright idea. It is selling a stereo record which includes the sound of a man "with a strong virile voice" talking to his wife. Its makers affirm that if you hear someone breaking into the house and play the record, it will scare burglars off.

THE CALL

Amid catcalls and uproar in the theatre came insistent cries of "Author! Author!"

"Oh you go," said the manager, giving the playwright a push from the wings "Tell 'em you're sorry."

* * *

LITTLE LAUGHS

Office Boy—"Can I go to lunch now, sir?"

Boss—"Lunch! After you've been licking stamps all morning!"

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

NOT BY BREAD ALONE...

THOSE western prophets of disaster who have been describing extensive food rationing and imaginary bread queues in the USSR will be delighted to learn that consumption of bread really is going down.

By 1975, the statisticians tell us, we'll be eating on an average a mere 270 lb. or so of bakery products bread, flour, cereals and the like. If that sort of figure means as little to you as it does to me, perhaps it helps to know that this is not much more than half what we were stuffing before the revolution and a good fifth less than we ate in 1970.

Does that mean the doom-mongers are right, after all? Fortunately, no. It simply means that, in these more prosperous days, we are turning away from the poor man's staple diet, bread, to much more desirable foods. The carbohydrates are having to take second place to meat, milk, eggs, fish, sugar, vegetables, fruit and so forth — consumption of all of which is rocketing.

There are ten countries in the world at the moment whose daily diet meets the 3,000-3200 calories standard laid down by the experts. The USSR is one of them. Only last month the UN Human Rights Commission published a survey that put our diet, both for calorie content and for protein, higher than that of Britain and West Germany. The fact might be considered by, western press busily worrying about alleged "shortages of butter" in the USSR.

Despite these experts, from a quantity point of view, our food problem is solved. But quantity is only the first step. The job now is to improve the pattern of our diet In 1970 the average Soviet citizen ate about 16 lb. more meat and over a hundred-weight more milk and diary produce than he did in 1965. So we are moving in the right direction.

Of course, all this doesn't mean we need less grain. It takes six to seven tons of fodder to "grow" a ton of meat. Hence our continuing determination to boost the harvest. As for the silly stories about "rationing in Russia," of course, no doubt you are well aware that they are nonsense.

As Sergei Trifonov, first deputy Minister of Trade, has made clear, there has been no rationing of any kind, in the towns or the villages, in any part of the USSR. Food stocks are, in fact, higher than before in most lines. Potato stocks are up five per cent on last year, vegetables 13 per cent.

* * *

LITERATURE FOR THE FUTURE CITIZENS...

Mrs. Mohini Rao, who was in Moscow recently to participate in the "International Forum of Writers for Children and Teen-Agers," was one of the most interesting personalities from India I have met and a few minutes' informal chat with her revealed her clear thinking and long-range vision. "Soveit literature for children and teenagers helps the young readers to get sound ideas of the surrounding world, evokes in them a feeling of love for this world and teaches them to love and respect people; People in India know and appreciate the works of Soviet writers" she said.

The Forum whose topic was "writers of the world and the Education of the growing generation" was held in Moscow between the 19th and the 26th of March last. About 60 authors from more than 30 countries participated in it.

Speaking about children's literature she quoted one or two books as best examples. One was Mr. N. Ostrovsky's "How Steel Was Tempered" which describes the Soviet Youth that defended the gains of the revolution and began building socialism. The book has seen 185 editions in many countries and has been translated into 42 languages.

Another book, A. Fadeyev's novel entitled "The Young Guard", devoted to the heroic role played by the Soviet Youth in the struggle against the fascist invadors, was published 98 times in 22 languages of the world.

That the Soviet books for children are welcome everywhere is not surprising because, the guiding principle of creators of children's literature in our country is, that if children of today grow up to be friends, the world of tomorrow will be free from conflicts and wars.

The delegates of the conference, during their stay here, visited the Editorial offices of newspapers and magazines for children and teen-agers, the Children's Book House to acquaint themselves with the organisation of publishing in the USSR. They also visited the Central Children's Theatre and the Moscow Young Spectators theatre and witnessed some productions.

* * *

Mrs. Mohini Rao, Chief of the Children's publications section of the National Book Trust of India engaged in a lively chat with the Pioneers in the International Club of the Moscow Palace of Pioneers.

MME. NGUYEN THI BINH HONOURED...

It is a welcome feature that women are taking more active part in the struggle for peace and progress in the world and the Soviet Union stands in the forefront in honouring such people. Only a few months ago they accorded a rousing reception to Angela Davis, the American fighter for liberation.

And now, the Soviet President Mr. Nikolai Podgorny has conferred the Order of Friendship of the Peoples on Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, prominent public figure and member of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam at a function in the Kremlin last week

This high distinction was conferred on her in recognition of her great services in the strugale for the independence and freedom of the Vietnamese people and for her fruitful services to ensure a fair peace in Vietnam, rally the patriotic forces of her country, strengthen the international solidarity of the progressive and democratic forces and further strengthen Soviet Vietnamese friendship.

Mr. Podgorny paid glowing tributes to the part played by Mme. Binh in the four-sided talks on Vietnam held in Paris. "With the ending of the war and total withdrawal of US and allied troops from Vietnam, the Vietnamese people are getting back to peaceful, constructive work. Favourable conditions are being created for South Vietnam to advance along the road of national accord, democracy, genuine independence and neutrality. The Soviet Union is closely watching the developments in Vietnam and is prepared to facilitate in every way a strict and consistent implementation of the Paris Agreement" assured Mr. Podgorny.

* * *

SIBERIA'S "RIP VAN TRITON"...

Don't disbelieve if someone says that he had gone to sleep some hundred years ago into a block of ice and woke up only just now when the ice melted, because there is more or less a similar case reported in the Izvestia.

But this is about a tiny newt-like sea-creature about four inches long, called the Triton. It has spent a hundred years hibernating in frozen ground in the Kolyama tundra of the Siberian Arctic and was found by workers digging a gold mine, about 40 ft. below the surface.

As soon as the ice melted, the triton came to life and began to move, obviously unharmed.

Siberian tritons have been known to hibernate for a winter but no previous long-term hibernation has been recorded. Their entire life span is not more than 10 to 15 years.

When this case was brought to the notice of Dr. N. Shcherbak who heads Kiev's Museum of Zoology, he was understandably sceptical. However, radio-carbon dating techniques applied to the triton confirmed that it is really hundred years old.

Dr. Shcherbak said this case is of great interest to biologists, eventhough it did not in the slightest mean that freezing techniques could, in the near future be used to prolong the lives of warm-blooded animals. "Whereas the conservation of live tissues had been studied more or less, this cannot be said about the conservation of an organism as a whole. The qestion of prolonging life several times over at the level of a whole organism is interesting not only for Zoologists, but for a wide range of specialists in the biological sciences," he said.

—

CONVERSATION PIECE

"I dreamt I met Nopolean last night."

"What was he like?"

"Enthusiastic."

"What about?"

"He didn't say."

* * *

PERFECT SERVICE

Mrs Style: "I want a hat, but it must be in the latest style."

Shop man: "Kindly take a chair, madam, and wait a few minutes; the fashion is just changing."

Health Begins At Home-1

No Man's Home Is A Castle

By MORRIS SCHAEFER,

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No man's home is safer or more healthful, ultimately, than the state of safety and healthfulness of the community of which it is a part. It is only through community health action that each man's home can be a true shelter against the hazards of his environment.

Along with food and clothing, shelter has long been regarded as a prime necessity for human life. Primitive man built physical barriers against the extremes of weather and against hostile creature, including other men. As civilization progressed, housing became more synthetic, sophisticated and secure. In most societies, the concept arose that "the home" was something more than mere housing, that it provided psychological as well as pyhsical shelter, and that it was focal point for the orderly growth of the family.

The home has also become a focal point for another requirement of living in organized societies: privacy, with all that it connotes about the essential rights of families and individuals. The constitutions of many nations speak of the right to privacy, and the police services in many communities are concerned with maintaining the security and privacy of people in their homes. Perhaps the ultimate statement of the principle is found in the legel dictum: a man's home is his castle.

What this idea suggests to the mind is the ability of the individual family to withdraw from the community into its own fortress, to pull up the bridges that link it with other people, to live in isolation from the sorrows and dangers that beset one's neighbours. Perhaps a small number of the extremely wealthy can purchase something like this degree of isolation and insulation, but for all other people it is an empty dream.

Having conceded the individual's legal right to privacy (subject to compromise when juxtaposed against the rights of the community and the government), one may fairly say that *no* man's home is a castle that can insulate him and protect him from the problems and hazards of life faced by the community. This idea is nowhere more true than in matters of health, for states of health and disease are constantly affected by the interaction between the home and the community.

This interaction occurs in several ways. There are things for which most people have to depend on the world boyond the walls of their house; for example, earning a livelihood, obtaining food and clothing, finding recreation and emotional satisfaction and taking part in community decisions and efforts that have a bearing on one's own interest.

When people function in society in any of these ways, they expose themselves to certain risks. There may be hazards in the work environment itself, as in the field, factory, mine, river or sea; in the means and mode travelling to work; in food and water contaminated by chemicals or disease organisms; in the wastes cast into the air and water from factory or farm; and in the stresses caused by crowding, noise and dirt. Besides, there are dangers to health generated in and by the home itself, in the form of biological and domestic wastes that can be sources of hazard to one's neighbours, as well as to one's own family.

On the other hand, the family stands to gain from the impact of social activities introduced as safeguards against health hazards —activities that can be carried out only by community action and support. Community health services work when the people of the community support them with funds and by following healthful practices. There are the services that set up and maintain safeguards against the spread of disease through the contamination of water and food. They seek to protect the worker on the job, the motorist and the pedestrian on the road, and anyone who may be exposed to breathing polluted air. They provide for proper and effective treatment of the sick besides taking measures of sanitation and immunization to prevent the occurrence and spread of communicable diseases.

The extent of the interaction between the individual and society or between smaller and larger groups varies from country to country, but it is on the increase in all parts of the world as a corollary of social and economic development. In the developing countries, industrialization and urbanization are increasing, society is becoming more complex, and there is a constant rise of new institutions — not the least of which are those devoted to the forms of mass communication. In the more developed countries, the unintended consequences of technological development have created intensive environmental problems to be solved. The experience is having an impact on the developing countries, too, in that it points out the pitfalls to be avoided as the pace of economic development is accelerated.

Are there men's homes that are immune to these problems, where the idea of isolated self-sufficiency still exists? To some extent, yes: in areas where population density and the level of technology are low—where home are situated in reasonably ample plots of land farmed by traditional methods—the community interactions that affect health are low, for there is a high degree of self sufficiency almost by definition. The separation of homesteads by space, the capacity of sparsely settled land and water areas to absorb demestic wastes, and reliance upon home production of food and textile stuffs are the major factors in the relatively low level of interdependence.

In sofar as its insulating factors against disease are concerned, even this conventional picture of rural living seldom holds true. The idyllic image vanishes as soon as certain elements of cultural and socio-economic change appear: farmers, for practical reasons, live in hamlets or villages and go out to work the surrounding fields; a hunting community decides to settle down in a village; land holdings strink, in effect by rapid population increases, in fact by laws of inheritance; the introduction of agricultural chemicals without adequate safeguards leads to pollution of land and water; industrics located nearby dispose of wastes in such a way as to contaminate the air and the streams of the region. All such changes strongly affect the rural condition, increase the interactions between the home and its environment and require organized community action to deal with threats to health and wellbeing.

Even as life in village communities is modified by economic and social change, an even increasing number of rural people move to the industrialized urban areas in search of a better life. Here there can be no pretence at self-sufficiency. The urban home is fully exposed to the physical and social environment. The factors of spatial separation, the capacity of land and water to absorb and dilute pollution, hardly apply.

At the extreme end are the crowded, poor slum areas in the industrial sections of large cities, where the environmental impacts upon health are massive in every aspect. This is mainly because of low levels of food safety, air purity, and cleanliness, lack of privacy, quiet, and shelter, and inadequate water supply and waste disposal. Quite aside from the millions of people in the developing countries who are without housing and whose "home" is a place on a sidewalk or in a railway station, the city dweller is in no sense self-contained, and the degree of his exposure to physical and psychological hazards varies only with

(Contd. on page 12)

ROMAN SCANDAL

The Rome press is full of reports about another scandal --a bugging scandal this time. And the man who touched it off is Rome Attorney Luciano Infelisi who, together with his aides, had tracked down telephone spies last October. Secret microphones, newspapers report, were found in the homes of businessmen Petrilli and Cefis, Carmelo Spagnuolo, Attorney-General of the Rome Court of Appeals, Giacomo Mancini, former Secretary of the Italian Socialist Party, and even Premier Giulio Andreotti. The *Panorama* magazine claims that bugging devices "have been installed in the homes of nearly all members of Parliament, to say nothing of party premises and the offices of newspapers and large companies".

Investigations revealed that the police had three telephone listening-in stations in Rome and carabinieri—two. The U. S. Central Intelligence Agency has also "opened" a monitoring station in the Italian capital. The West German *Der Spiegel* writes that the "eavesdroppers" include employees of the SIP telephone company and a great many private detectives. Among those involved in the scandal, the weekly says, are leaders of extreme Right parties, neo-fascists and the army intelligence service.

Listening-in devices capable of intercepting conversations at distances ranging from 500 to 1,000 metres are sold at 200,000 Lire each. This is a sum the police, secret organisations and businessmen who want to know what their rivals are doing can well afford. To deprive spies of their "material base", Italian M.P.s have urged the government to ban the sale of "flies, bugs and dragon-flies", as these articles of the new flourishing trade are called.

The Italian Constitution guarantees "democratic freedoms", including the secrecy of telephone conversations. That's on paper. It's different in life. "Ten of thousands of citizens are kept under surveillance, spied upon and blackmailed," says M. P. Vincenzo Balzamo. "It's a sort of Grand Inquisition".

Strange But True

MODEL FAMILY

In the past five years Pierre Bonin and his wife, who live in Lyons, have perpetrated about 120 burglaries. In the eyes of their neighbours, they were a model family. Bonin himself did not work because he was a tubercular. His wife took care of housework in the morning and in the afternoon the couple went out with their little son and usually returned only in the evening. What they really did was to leave the child with some body and go about their business. Mme Bonin carried everything they needed in her purse. At the end of the week they would take the loot to their country house, where the police found 80,000 francs in cash, 40,000 francs in jewellery, and a ton of stolen goods.

* * *

Defiant Clydebank

The Edinburgh Court has fined the Clydebank Town Council £5,000 for refusing to raise municipal rents under the recently promulgated Housing Finance Act. The council of this British shipbuilding centre is made up wholly of Labourites and Communists. Supported by the unions, they came out strongly against rent increases and refused to submit to the Act. Thousands of Clydebank workers have threatened strike if the court ruling is put into effect.

* * *

Damages For What?

Mme de Talleyrand-Perigord, a descendant of Napoleon's Minister of Foreign Affairs, recently filed a 200,000-franc suit against Mme Westheimer for calling her race horse Talleyrand. The Paris Civil Court has adjourned hearings to establish what concrete moral damage this fact has caused.

* * *

In His Native City

A mini public poll was conducted in Heinrich Heine's home town of Dusseldorf on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the birth of the great German poet. Seventeen person said Heine was a famous table tennis player, five called him a wrestler, and two thought he was a Bundestag deputy. Only 19 persons gave the correct answer.

* * *

Money Or Life

U. S. News and World Report writes that the Citizens Association of Georgetown, the Washington suburb where many members of Congress and high government officials live, has advised its residents always to carry a minimum of $20 so they could be prepared to appease bandits who might kill them if frustrated in an attempt to make a sizable haul.

* * *

Fake Masterpieces

According to the *New York Times*, about 15 per cent of the pictures attributed to famous painters and exhibited at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art were really created by less known artists. Some of them are later copies or fakes. This is the conclusion arrived at by a special commission which has examined more than 300 pictures, including those by Rembrandt, Goya and Raphael.

* * *

WISE GUYS

Outside the crocodile pool at the Bakersfield zoo in Britain, reports the West German *Die Welt*, there is a sign saying that anyone found throwing bits of food into the pool will be asked to go in and pick them out.

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Z3SEA

Electric Wire Thinner Than Cobweb

KISHINEV (USSR) A method of producing cast enamel electric wire. the diameter of which is less than the thinnest natural thread—the cobweb, has been elaborated by the scientists of Moldavia (a repubiic in the South-West of the USSR).

The weight of 12,000 kilometres of such reliably insulated metallic thread with high electric conductivity will be only 1 kg. Its diameter together with insulation is 4 microns. The elasticity of the enamelled thread makes it possible to reel it on a frame 20-30 microns in diameter. The qualities open up before the "electric wire—cobweb" prospects of its wide-scale application in instrument-making, radio-engineering, radio-electronic industry.

* * *

Archaeologists In Flippers

BAKU (USSR): The archaeologists of Azerbaijan have fitted out a new underwater expedition. The Caspian Sea washing the shores of this Soviet Transcaucasian Republic keeps many secrets of history. In the first five summer seasons of hydro-archaeological exploration of the floor of the Caspian there were discovered over 900 objects of considerable historical value. The scientists "discovered," for example, a medieval seaside town submerged by the Caspian Sea.

* * *

Declassified

Everything in any way connected with the British Secret Intelligence Service is usually "top secret." The name of its chief is classified - or rather was until recently, when his son got involved in a big drug scandal. That was when it was learned that the SIS was headed by Sir John Ogilvy Rennie, who officially held the post of Deputy Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Officer. After this scandal Sir John was forced to resign.

x x x

Vaccine For Sheep

FURNZE (USSR: A new vaccine developed by Kirghizian scientists efficiently protects lambs against stomatitis—a widespread disease. Professor Tsyren Khanduyev has been awarded the Republic's State Prize for this vaccine. The laboratory he supervises will provide Kirghizian shepherds this year with six million units of this new agent.

* * *

HE GAVE UP

Japanese veterinary surgeon Teruo Iwamoto recently decided to do his bit to make the air in Tokyo cleaner. He put his car in the garage and started doing his rounds on a donkey. But he soon gave up: oats were more expensive than petrol.

MODERN LIVING

Two-thirds of West Germans live in houses without central heating and bath-rooms, according to a report issued by the Institure of Urban Construction in Bonn. More than a fifth of all the dwellings in the Federal Republic of Germany were built in the 19th century, *Unsere Zeit* wrote, commenting on these figures.

x x x

RECORD

Because of the railway strike, Joseph Viverlto of New York ran to his office. The *Daily Express* says he covered the distance of 20 miles in 2 hours and 15 minutes, which is one hour faster than he could get there by ordinary transport means on congested roads.

NOW YOU KNOW!

On seeing a very old man working in his cottage garden, the holiday tripper shouted to him and asked how old he was.

"I be seven and seventy," was the reply.

"But why put the seven first?" asked the stranger.

"Because I was seven before I was seventy!" replied the old villager.

From page 3

parental land mass was Australia.

What happens when plates carrying continents and oceans meet? When two oceanic plates meet, one digs under the other and volcanic islands are thrown up. When a continental plate and an oceanic plate meet, the former digs under the latter, resulting in fold mountains, the notable example being the Andes of South America. When two continental plates meet, neither can dig under the other and so. they just collide, triggering off violent forces which create mountain ranges. This was how the Himalayas and the Alps were formed.

In the cataclysmic geological history of the earth, creation of new oceans and disappearance of existing ones are common events. So are the uplifting and submersion of whole areas of land.

After closely studying the trend of continental drift that taken place so far, scientists have predicted what will happen in the next 50 million years. The South Atlantic and Indian ocean will grow at the expense of the Pacific. Africa will lose its eastern portion and in its northward drift to join with Europe, it will swallow up the Mediterranea Sea. New land will appear in the Carribean area. Part of California will cut itself away from the American mainland And, Australia will merge with South-east Asia!

From page 2

strongly held differences of opinion.

Opinion can be held as strongly and honestly in favour of providing various types incentives to private capitalists to enable them to develop industries, as it can be for a socialist type of development on a planned basis. mainly, if not wholly, through the public sector. It is not my object to enter into the rival merits of either of these views. The point to emphasise is that the two views represent two entirely different paths to progress, and that each requires a multiplicity of decisions of different magnitudes to implement it.

The question which needs to be answered is whether a person, honestly holding one view, can be expected not only to put in his best efforts for the other, which he can possibly do, but to identify himself completely with the other view and take all the subsidiary decisons the same spirit in which the basic decision was taken. And this in spite of the fact that he may well hold that the view he is being called upon to implement will retard progress and do more harm than good to the country.

MINISTERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS

The theory of neutrality of the civil servant has traditionally been supported by an oversimplified distinction drawn between the respective roles of ministers and of the civil servants in a democracy. It is for the ministers, it is argued, to lay down the policies. and for the civil servants to implement them.

While basically this is true, the distinction between policy and implementation is by no means as clear cut as this argument would have it. A policy, however well-defined, can be distorted out of recognition, if it is wrongly implemented. Nor can the respective roles of the ministers and the civil servants be strictly confined to policies and implementation.

In a democracy, a minister is answerable to the parliament not only for his policies but also for the manner in which they are implemented. It is indeed a well-accepted practice in a parliamentary democracy for a minister to accept responsibility at least for the major mistakes of implementation. It follows, therefore that a minister has not only to lay down the policy but also to oversee its implementation. Similarly, the civil service at the higher levels cannot be free of policy responsibilities.

On the other hand, the higher civil service has an advisory role. It is for the higher civil servants to collect the necessary data, collate them and advise the ministers in the formulation of policies. The collation and presentation of facts, the emphasis placed on each and the conclusions drawn from them necessarily involve choices or options which cannot but be influenced by the overall subjective attitude of the civil servant.

Moreover, even after the broad policy is formulated its implementation requires numerous subsidiary decisions, which are not free from policy overtones. It is true that these subsidiary decisions can and should be supervised by ministers as much as it is for the ministers to accept or to reject the policy advice they receive. In practice, however, it is hardly possible for a minister to look into details of every case where a subsidiary decision has to be taken, or even to re-examine all the data on which policy decisions on which policy have to be based.

NEED FOR BASIC ACCORD

The civil service would lose its *raison d'etre* and prove to an obstruction rather than a help to the government it seeks to serve if on account of a basic difference in outlook it makes recommendations or takes decisions which are not fully in accord with the nuances of government policies. It is indeed an oversimplification to suggest that policies can be laid down once for all, and that once they are laid down, all that remains is to implement them. A policy formulation, however, carefully drawn up, can hardly spell out all the nuances which the policy makers had in mind and which contributed to the making of the policy.

The distinction between the functions of ministers and of the civil servants based on that of policy and implementation is thus more of emphasis than of kind. Ministers undoubtedly do and should have much greater share than the civil servants in matters of policy, for it is largely on the basis of their policy enunciations that ministers are elected. Similarly, civil servants can by large claim a greater share in the implementation of accepted policies, for constant interference by the political masters in matters of implementation can well lead to a breakdown of the administration and, therefore, to failure of policies, however well conceived.

Nevertheless, neither the minister nor the civil servant functioning at the higher level can absolve himself of responsibility for either of the two functions, namely, policy formulation and its implementation. There needs, therefore, to be a basic accord in outlook between the political rulers and the higher civil servants if the work of government is to function smoothly. Instances are not unknown where the work of departments or ministries has suffered greatly for lack of this accord.

COMMITTED CIVIL SERVICE

The concept of a committed civil service is not really new, though in the present context of a developing country like ours it has assumed greater significance. In India we have not only adopted certain broad values, like democracy, secularism and social justice, but have given content to these values and have accepted them as our objectives as well as our means to progress.

We are convinced, for instance, that social justice is not merely an objective to be aimed at but that, in order to ensure growth with social justice, which is the only practicable means to progress, we must adopt a socialist, as distinct from a purely capitalist form of development. To serve as an instrument of development, therefore, we need in our country a civil service committed to these values, both as objectives and as means to progress, as much as British democracy even at the turn of the century needed a civil service committed to the values which Britain then represented, namely, parliamentary democracy, nationalism and imperialism.

A person who believes in communal or caste dominance or in special privileges of a class or group will be as much out of place in the civil service of modern India, and will be able to contribute as little to the objectives of his government, as a fascist or a marxist would have been in Britain in the first two decades of the present century.

To this extent the concept of commitment is not new. The significance which the concept has assumed, however, in a country like India today is far greater than it had in the parliamentary democracies a few decades ago. This is because India is not only committed to certain values as broad objectives of policy but has decided to transform the society from a colonial and early capitalist form to a socialist pattern, while, at the same time, maintaining her commitment to the parliamentary form of democracy.

"DISSENT" IN DEMOCRACY

This change, while it may have the support of the great masses of the country to the extent that they are able to appreciate its significance and are not misled by those adversely affected by it, cannot be expected to have the willing acquiescence of those who are either hurt by it, or even if not so hurt, are brought up in a different tradition of thought.

Since what our country seeks to achieve is not merely growth but also a social transformation from a religion, caste and class ridden society, often swayed by unreasoning passions and emotions, to a secular, democratic society on a socialist pattern, it would be unreasonable to expect the measure of unanimity for such a transformation which the democracies of the late nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries could get, specially when the working class consciousness had yet to manifest itself.

In a totalitarian state the problem is, of course, solved in a different manner. In such a state, dissent is not tolerated whether in or outside the civil service. In our form of government, on the other hand, dissent is of the essence. It has to flourish in the country, if democracy is of the type we have chosen is not to be denied.

In this context, therefore, it is natural to expect persons holding views fundamentally opposed to those forming the basis of state policy. The question is whether such persons, however essential they may be to the maintenance of democracy, can be expected to be fit instruments of state policy.

NEUTRALITY CLEARLY UNREAL

To maintain his role of neutrality, it is held that a civil servant in a parliamentary democracy should either have no pol itical views, or even if he has any, should subjugate his views completely and concentrate on implementing whatever policies the government of the day lays down.

The first alternative is clearly unreal. It is unreal to expect that an educated individual who enters the civil service on the basis of a rigorous intellectual test will draw no conclusions, and form no opinions on the basis of his own observation and reasoning or under the influence of the thoughts with which he has come in contact.

It is possible, in fact likely, that at the stage that he enters the civil service his opinions are still at a formative stage. To presume, however, that throughout his career he would maintain intellectual neutrality, capable of judging problems "pragmatically" or "on merits" is to attribute to him an intellectual vacuum, unworthy of an educated individual. Political neutrality can at best mean absence of formal adherence to a political ideology. It cannot mean complete intellectual neutrality.

Pragmatism in the circumstances can be a cloak for drawing conclusions from a preconceived framework of thought and assumptions not as it claims by a fresh approach to every case.

SUBJUGATION OF VIEWS IMPRACTICAL

If complete intellectual neutrality is unreal, complete subjugation of views is extremely difficult, if not, impractical. In the face of categorical directives, sufficiently detailed in nature, it is possible for an individual, as for civil servant, to subjugate his own views and carry out the directives. Where, however there is an element of discretion and the thought process has to be brought into play, it becomes difficult so substitute the thought process underlyiug the government's policy, and to take or suggest action accordingly without allowing his own thought process to come into play.

This element of discretion naturally increases with the level at which the civil servant functions. At the highest levels, where the advisory role is combined, as has been noted with the decision-making role, the scope for discretion is substantial.

At these levels it becomes extremely difficult, if not impossible, to advise to take action within the fraework of the goverment's policy, if the civil servant in his personal judgment feels that such policy is opposed to the national interest, as he sees it, and that any action on the basis of such policy would therefore be harmful to the country.

from page 9

the levels of poverty and density in which he may live. Yet even the richest city family cannot shield itself from the industrial and traffic pollution of the air it breathes and is dependent, as all other families, on the availability and continuation of water, waste disposal and sanitation services.

As urban areas have increased in size and density, so have the problems of health and disease. Cities become metropolitan areas or even "megalopolis"—thousands of square kilometres entirely urbanized, with the population bound together by production, pollution, transport and marketing - but seldom by coordinated or unified political organization that would permit them to solve shared problems on a regional basis. Because of their greater disease problems and their density, cities have been pioneers in the development of organized health and sanitation services—as a matter of necessity for their survival. Unless certain minimum conditions are met in matters of water and food safety, waste disposal and pollution control, the threat of disease and poisoning exists for all, not only for those most directly and obviously exposed. Yet millions of city dwellers in today's world are without such minimum safeguards against physical hazards, much less against psychological and social stress that are associated with mental illness, crime, functional disability and social alienation.

Conditions are most acute in the poorer, developing countries where it is hard to find the economic means to achieve the minimum levels of sanitation, often in the face of rapid changes in population size and composition and of pellmell urbanization. The developed countries face many of the same problems and others engendered by the side-effects of technological sophistication and mass distribution of commodities that lead to pollution and aggravation of waste disposal problems. And in all communities there are enhanced needs and rising expectations for medical services to prevent, detect and treat disease and disability and to rehabilitate the survivors when necessary.

Increasingly, governments in virtually all countries are being called upon to intervene more strongly to try to solve these problems. When solution of a health problem goes beyond the means available to individuals, singly or in groups, it has been the tradition in public health that the government legitimately steps in, a failure to do so being regarded as a failure to meet its mandate. Certainly the rise of new and more severe health problems that accompany changes in population composition and movement, and those resulting from technological development, calls for a more active role by the government. Only the government possesses or can harness the economic and scientific resources needed to solve these problems; only the government has been given the legal power by the people to deal with them authoritatively. Today no government in the world can escape the challenge to use its resources and its powers in the interest of the public: to organize services, to extend basic safeguards and to find a balance between economic development needs and health needs--knowing that sooner or later the fact has to be faced that there can be a healthy economy only when there are healthy people, and vice versa.

Yet the role of the government must reach beyond the regulation of enterprises and the provision of health and sanitation services out of pooled revenues. Necessary as these are, they must be jointed with efforts to help people in their homes to act on their own behalf. Millions of parents now live in home situations radically different from those in which they grew up and learned to function. Education and motivation are needed if these parents and their children are to use their homes in ways that promote their own health and create the least threat to the health of their neighbours. The home needs to be developed as a centre for health, whether the home is a mansion or a hut, whether it is set in the heart of a city, along the single street of a village or out in the country. Wherever there are human settlements, the prospects of people for better health are interlocked with the prospects of other people.

For no man's home is safer or more healthful, ultimately, than the state of safety and healthfulness of the community of which it is a part. And it is only through community action on behalf of health—in its widest sense—that each man's home can be a true shelter against the hazards of his environment. Only through community health action can man check and regulate the hazards generated by urbanization, crowding, pollution and other rising sources of stress. Community health action in turn, comes about when there is broad involvement of the people, both as citizens and householders.

(Courtesy: WHO)

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Caller: "I never saw two children look so much alike. How does your mother tell you apart?" One of the Twins: "She finds out by spankin' us. Dick cries louder'n I do.

* * *

Doctor—"I'm afraid he's dead."

Patient—"No, I'm not."

Nurse—"Shut up. The doctor knows best!"

* * *

Pretty nurse (to Doctor): "Every time I take his pulse it goes faster! What shall I do?

Doctor: "Blind-fold him."

* * *

Judge: "I fine you £10 for contempt of court!"

Witness: "Make it £13, judge ......£10 wouldn't express my contempt for this court."

From page 1

Population Still Eats...

and relatively little capital, almost the opposite of what has actually happened.

The next Five Year Plan, to begin in 1974, will incorporate some of these new ideas about development. Whether they produce a real change in direction remains to be seen.

And there is another fact that one must accept about India. This nation is moved by a cumbersome but well-entrenched bureaucracy and by a political system that, in the view of many Indians, has over-observed the decorum of democracy and forgotten sometimes that it is also necessary to act.

TOLERANT TO AN EXTREME

A writer in Bombay's Political and Economic Weekly, commenting on the allegd failure of Indian governments to follow any resolute course of action, says, "This search for portmanteau formulations too was sanctified by invoking India's ancient regard for tolerance, and by pointing out that the country's democratic ambience would be gravely ruptured were a leader to insist on bringing matters to a head...."

And one Indian editor asserts, "Nothing has changed at all. This country has always been run for the benefit of the 10 or 15 percent at the top and that's the way it will remain for the foreseeable future."

Just what Mrs. Gandhi's intentions are depends in part on how much time she feels she has to act. Some of her critics, who don't think many of her backers have any genuine concern about the poor, think her only aim is to stay in power. They point to the lack of major action since her election victory in March, 1971.

This seems ungenerous, particularly considering the Pakistan war which has occurred in the interval. Moreover, Mrs. Gandhi may see herself as having a long political life and now may be consolidating her position first.

CRISIS IMMINENT

Yet a crisis could be brought on in 1973 by a bad rabi harvest by a weak summer monsoon (which would make it two years in a row), or even by the steeply rising prices.

Moreover, some of the impatient ways of the West are catching on here, too,

There were riots at New Delhi University in December, and it was closed until things could cool down. In the six weeks leading up to Christmas, young people stopped and burned some 88 buses in New Delhi. It is estimated that there are some five million educated, unemployed persons in India today.

To some extent, the problems the country now faces are of a different dimension and exist within a different framework from in the past. It may be unrealistic to think that the Indian people will remain passive in the face of new difficulties.

Yet few Indians see any likelihood of a move toward communism. What is more likely is that many of the groups that now support Mrs. Gandhi and are included in her Congress Ruling Party would dissociate themselves if the winds began to blow the other direction, and some new coalition would be formed.

An American working for an international organization in India said, "I just can't see this present group of politicians doing the job that has to be done. India is going to go through some rough times in the next 5 to 10 years. But after that there will be some real progress, because these are a great people."

On the other hand, Mr. Narasimhan says his country will never undergo "a sustained period of turmoil. The Indian is too lethargic for that."

Meanwhile, India seems destined to go on, like the boy at the beach, patiently building and rebuilding as the tides come and go. If a violent period ahead is not foreseeable, neither is it possible to identify sources of rapid progress in this ancient, bewildering but beguiling land.

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Depreciated

Blue Mao Tse-tung worker suits which were offered for $20 each at stores in the United States at the time of President Nixon's visit to Peking have now been marked down to $5, writes the London *Daily Express*.

—

"Gladys celebrated her birthday last week."

"Did she take the day off?"

"The day? She took two years off!"

Those Natural Smells

Lemon smell is quite in vogue in the West now. Lemon essence is added to soap, shampoo, face creams and lotions. One company sells a wide range of cosmetics smelling of lemon and calls them "Women's Happiness". The West German Lever Sunlicht recently sent a cavalcade of lemon-coloured Volkswagens adorned with huge perfume bottles to tour the country. This "lemon boom" is associated by many with the "back to nature" movement, whose proponents are against "anything that is artificial and chemical". The publicity men of the firms concerned hope to use this trend to good advantage. Incidentally, citrus essences account for only about 2 per cent of the aromatic ingredients used in cosmetics. The rest are chemicals.

A tractor team at the Shuisky State Farm in Tselinogrod Region.

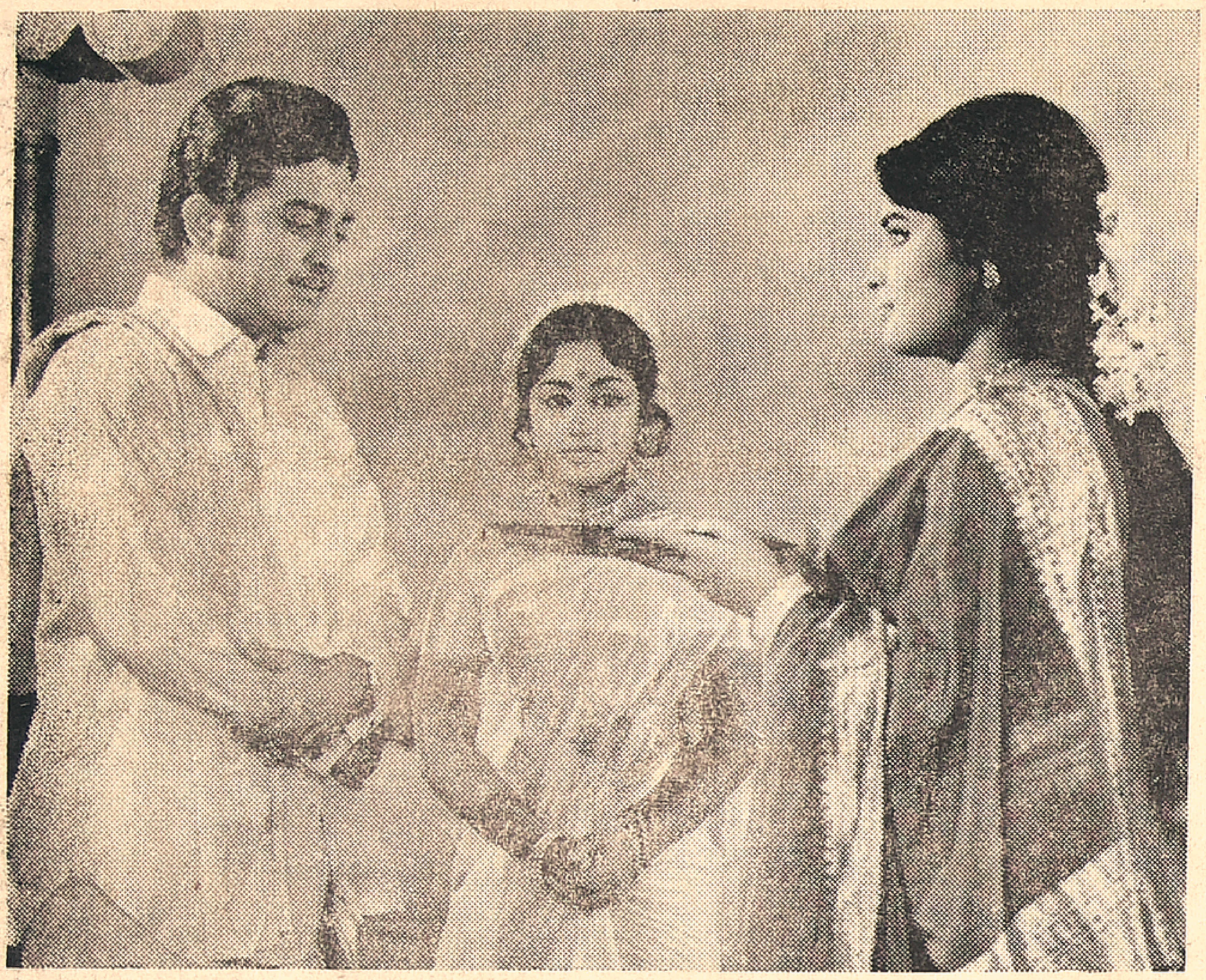
from Second Cover

annual crop-yields in Kazakhstan's virgin lands to 24 million tons in the current Five-Year Plan period. Chemistry that nourishes the fields with mineral fertilisers more and more generously, new machines that will cultivate the land better will help to cope with this task. Irrigation will also help to raise the crop-yields and make them more stable.

In addition to grain the republic will produce a million tons of meat and 4 million tons of milk every year in the current Five-Year Plan period.

Today the virgin lands show what great tasks can be accomplished by a society in which every member cares not for his own good, but for the happiness of all.

Big elevators are a integral part of virgin-and landscape.



Devika welcoming home the young couple Premila and AVM Rajan with "arathi" in Jayanthi Films "Anbu Sagotharargal"

Jayalalitha and Savithri in Vidhya Movies' "Soorya-kandhi."

Lovely Manjula as she appears in Jeyar Movies' "Mannavan Vanthanadi"

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